

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Robert Wham et al. Examiner: Not Yet Assigned
Serial No.: Unassigned Group: Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned
Filed: Herewith Docket: 203-3398 CIP CON
(2155 CIP CON)
For: VESSEL SEALING SYSTEM Dated: January 21, 2004

Mail Stop Patent Appliation
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

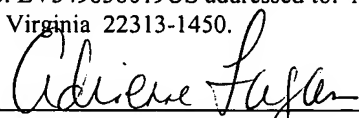
Sir:

Pursuant to Applicant(s) duty of disclosure, the information listed in the attached form PTO-1449 is brought to the attention of the Examiner. Copies of the references cited are not enclosed as they were previously cited in U.S. Application Serial No. 09/408,944, now U.S. Patent No. 6,398,779 and U.S. Application Serial No. 10/073,761 and U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/427,832.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.10

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Mail Label No. EV349838019US addressed to: Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Dated: January 21, 2004



Adrienne Fagan


The citation of the listed items is not a representation that they constitute a complete or exhaustive listing of the relevant art or that the references are prior art. The items listed are submitted in good faith, but are not intended to substitute for the Examiner's search. It is hoped, however, that in addition to apprising the Examiner of these particular items, they will assist in identifying fields of search and in making as full and complete a search as possible. The filing of this information disclosure statement is not an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b).

- ☒ [X] This information disclosure statement is being filed within three (3) months of the filing date of this application.
- ☐ [] This information disclosure statement is being filed within three (3) months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.491 in an international application.
- ☒ [X] To the best of Applicant(s) knowledge, this information disclosure statement is being filed before the date of mailing of a first Office Action on the merits in connection with this case.
- ☐ [] Enclosed herewith is a certificate under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).
- ☐ [] Enclosed herewith is a petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d)(ii).
 - ☐ [] Enclosed by check is the petition fee of \$130.00. (37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(1))
 - ☐ [] Please charge the \$130.00 petition fee to Deposit Account No. 50-2140.
- ☐ [] Enclosed by check is the \$180.00 fee required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
- ☐ [] Please charge the \$180.00 fee required by 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 50-2140.

- [X] Please charge any deficiency as well as any other fee(s) which may become due under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 and/or §1.17 at any time during the pendency of this application, or credit any overpayment of such fee(s) to Deposit Account **50-2140**. Also, in the event any extensions of time for responding and/or a petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i)(i) are required for the pending application(s), please treat this paper as a petition to extend the time and/or enter this Information Disclosure Statement as required and charge Deposit Account No. **50-2140** therefor. **TWO (2) COPIES OF THIS SHEET ARE ENCLOSED.**

The claims of the application as now presented are believed to be patentably distinguish over the prior art and to be in condition for allowance. Early and favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


George Likourezos
Reg. No. 40,067
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GL/af

Form PTO-1449 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION (Use several sheets if necessary)				Docket Number 203-3398 CIPCON (2155 CIPCON)		Application Number 	
				Applicant Robert Wham et al.			
				Filing Date Herewith		Group Art Number Not Yet Assigned	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date if Appropriate
		4,092,986	Jun-98	Schneiderman			
		4,191,188	Mar-80	Belt et al.			
		4,372,315	Feb-83	Shapiro et al.			
		4,378,801	Apr-83	Oostein			
		4,416,276	Nov-83	Newton et al.			
		4,646,222	Feb-87	Okado et al.			
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		4,658,819	Apr-87	Harris et al.			
		4,727,874	Mar-88	Bowers et al.			
		4,931,717	Jun-90	Gray et al.			
		4,969,885	Nov-90	Farin			
		5,167,658	Dec-92	Ensslin			
		5,300,068	Apr-94	Rosar et al.			
		5,423,810	Jun-95	Goble et al.			
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		5,540,681	Jul-96	Strul et al.			
		5,540,684	Jul-96	Hassler, Jr.			
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation Yes No
OTHER DOCUMENTS							
Vallfors and Bergdahl, "Automatically Controlled Bipolar Electrocoagulation" Neurosurgical Review, 7:2-3, pp. 187-190. 1984							
Bergdahl and Vallfors "Studies on Coagulation and the Development of an Automatic Computerized Bipolar Coagulator" Journal of Neurosurgery, 75:1, 148 151, Jul. 1991							
Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or nor citation is in conformance with MPEP §609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to the applicant.							

Form PTO-1449 <div style="text-align: center;">INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION</div> <p align="center">(Use several sheets if necessary)</p>	<table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width:50%; padding: 2px;"> Docket Number 203-3398 CIP CON (2155 CIP CON) </td> <td style="width:50%; padding: 2px;"> Application Number </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="padding: 2px;"> Applicant Robert Wham et al. </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;"> Filing Date Herewith </td> <td style="padding: 2px;"> Group Art Number Not Yet Assigned </td> </tr> </table>	Docket Number 203-3398 CIP CON (2155 CIP CON)	Application Number 	Applicant Robert Wham et al.		Filing Date Herewith	Group Art Number Not Yet Assigned
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date if Appropriate
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		5,827,271	Oct-98	Buyse et al.			
		5,871,481	Feb-99	Kannenbergh et al.			
		5,931,836	Aug-99	Hatta et al.			
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		6,511,476	Jan-03	Hareyama			
		6,558,376	May-03	Bishop			
		6,582,427	Jun-03	Goble et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
							Yes	No

OTHER DOCUMENTS

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